

26 sending the first media to exit to the "<JobExit>". After step S225, the method may end in step S237 following step S225.

Please replace the paragraph on page 18, lines 26-29, with the following paragraph:

In step S235 after step S234, the printing system 26 increments the overall feed count of an exit pattern media feeds. Although the method of FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B may end in step S237, multiple cycles of FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B may need to be executed to complete an output set of a print job.

Marked-up Version Of Amended Paragraphs of Specification:

A marked up version of the above amended paragraphs is set forth below as provided in 37 C.F.R. 1.121.

The paragraph on page 3, lines 21-22, is amended as follows:

[FIG. 10 is] FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B are a flow chart for a method for determining a balanced media exit pattern in accordance with the invention.

The paragraph on page 14, lines 23-27, is amended as follows:

[FIG. 10 shows] FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B show a flow chart for the method of balanced media exit pattern determination. A user may invoke or enable the method of [FIG. 10] FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B by typing the "B" in column 117 of the text window 120 in FIG. 5D. Before balancing, the media exit pattern might resemble the example of FIG. 7D. After balancing the media exit pattern might resemble the example of FIG. 7C.

The paragraph on page 14, lines 28-32 and page 15, lines 1-2, is amended as follows:

Referring to [FIG. 10] FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B, for each sheet feed handled by the printer 18, one cycle of the method may be invoked. A cycle starts at step S220 with

the reception of a sheet feed request via entry from a user interface 13. The cycle may end at any of the point's labeled step S237. [FIG. 10] FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B use various counters (e.g., register values) during a cycle. The values of the counters may be retained for multiple passes through the method of [FIG. 10] FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B until a print job or a set within a print job is complete, where a set may include multiple page feed requests.

The paragraph on page 15, lines 3-10, is amended as follows:

In step S221, the printing system 26 determines if the medium currently selected in one of the sources 38 is the correct medium to be processed. If the media currently selected to be fed is the correct medium, which may be referred to as the exit medium, then the method continues with step S222. However, if the media being fed is not the exit media then the method ends in step S237. The end in step S237 means the method is complete and no further action is needed for this sheet feed request. However, a print job or a set in a print job may require the execution of multiple sheet feed requests and multiple executions of the method of [FIG. 10] FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B.

The paragraph on page 15, lines 27-32, is amended as follows:

In step S224, the printing system 26 determines if the present page being fed is at the start of an output set of a print job. For example, the printing system 26 may reference a page counter that counts each page of an output set for a print job by incrementing the page counter. The set counter is reset at the beginning of each output set. An output set may involve multiple sheet feed requests and cycles of [FIG. 10] FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B. If the present page is at the start of an output set, the method continues with step S225. If the present page is not at the start of the an output set, the method continues with step S226.

The paragraph on page 16, lines 3-13, is amended as follows:

In step S225, the printing system 26 initializes a number of printing parameters that are used later in the method of [FIG. 10] FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B. Printing parameters may include a target adjustment value, a specific feed count, and an overall feed count. The target adjustment value may be set from zero to one. For example, the target adjustment value may be set to 0.9 to provide good results or other values consistent with experimental tests. In one embodiment, the specific feed count is set to two and the overall feed count is set to two to prepare for any subsequent processing in accordance with [FIG. 10] FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B. Further, in step S225, the first sheet of the output set is routed to the job exit. Route to the job exit results in the printing system 26 sending the first media to exit to the "<JobExit>". After step S225, the method may end in step S237 following step S225.

The paragraph on page 18, lines 26-29, is amended as follows:

In step S235 after step S234, the printing system 26 increments the overall feed count of an exit pattern media feeds. Although the method of [FIG. 10] FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B may end in step S237, multiple cycles of [FIG. 10] FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B may need to be executed to complete an output set of a print job.

REMARKS

As originally filed, FIG. 10 was placed on a single sheet. However, to comply with the drawing requirements under 37 C.F.R. 1.84, Applicants submitted two sheets of formal drawings for FIG. 10, which are now designated FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B.

This Preliminary Amendment to the specification primarily changes references in the specification to be consistent with FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B, rather than FIG. 10.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's approval of FIG. 10A and FIG. 10B along with the entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

If there are any question, please contact the undersigned at 312-321-4240.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. E. Bartholomew', is written over a horizontal line.

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